



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

10. — *Harper's Weekly. A Journal of Civilization.* 1857 – 1864.
8 vols. folio.

Is it eight or eighty years that are chronicled in these volumes? The leading article in the first number of *Harper's Weekly*, bearing date of January 3, 1857, was on the election of Buchanan, and it contains the following words: "The principle lying at the basis of free government — the only principle on which a free system, as opposed to systems of force or of a class, can exist — the principle of peaceful arrangement of contending forces and interests — is the principle, in a word, of COMPROMISE." "When the sun of compromise in this country shall set, it will rise on a scene of civil conflict, and, in all probability, of bloody strife."

The leading article in the last number of the last volume of *Harper's Weekly*, bearing date of December 31, 1864, contains the following words: "War is sorrowful, but there is one thing infinitely more horrible than the worst horrors of war, and that is the feeling that nothing is worth fighting for, and the blindness which cannot see that war is often the safest, surest, shortest, and least bloody way of peace." The difference in the tone of thought of these two passages marks the change wrought during the interval of time between them.

In *Putnam's Magazine* for March, 1857, appeared an article on "Harper's Monthly and Weekly." It was a just criticism of their merits and defects. It said of the paper: "Like the Magazine, it will follow, and echo, and shirk; but whoever believes in his country and its constant progress in developing human liberty, will understand that he has no ally in *Harper's Weekly*. But as a repository of pleasant, various reading, of sprightly chit-chat, and safe, vague, and dull disquisitions upon a few public questions, it will probably live long and be widely sold."

Three years later, even four years later, the same or even a severer judgment might have been passed upon it. It was not till the 27th of April, 1861, that *Harper's Weekly* found out that it had a country to be believed in, and learned that *compromise*, or surrender of right to wrong, was worse than war. Up to that time it had tried to offend nobody, and it had succeeded in offending every earnest and right-thinking man. At length it was forced to have and to express opinions. It must take a side, and it did so. From that time to this it has steadily grown stronger and more vigorous. It has given up compromise; it has obtained principles, and with principles an influence such as it never possessed before. During the past two years it has been one of the most powerful of the organs of public opinion. Its vast circulation, deserved-

ly secured and maintained by the excellence and variety of its illustrations of the scenes and events of the war, as well as by the spirit and tone of its editorials, has carried it far and wide. It has been read in city parlors, in the log hut of the pioneer, by every camp-fire of our armies, in the wards of our hospitals, in the trenches before Petersburg, and in the ruins of Charleston; and wherever it has gone, it has kindled a warmer glow of patriotism, it has nerved the hearts and strengthened the arms of the people, and it has done its full part in the furtherance of the great cause of Union, of Freedom, and of Law. "Whoever believes in his country, and its constant progress in developing human liberty, will understand that he has an ally in *Harper's Weekly*." The author of the article in *Putnam's Monthly* from which we have quoted is now the editor of the weekly journal. Time has brought about its revenges.

The articles upon public questions which appear in the paper from week to week form a remarkable series of brief political essays. They are distinguished by clear and pointed statement, by good common-sense, by independence and breadth of view. They are the expressions of mature conviction, high principle, and strong feeling, and take their place among the best newspaper writing of the time. They are a running commentary upon events, and are themselves an important expression of that public opinion which they help to mould and to direct.

The numerous illustrations in each number of the paper constitute an interesting and valuable pictorial record of the war. The scenes of the successive campaigns—lately of the march through Georgia, the capture of Fort Fisher, the occupation of Charleston—are represented with such spirit and truthfulness as to fill out and render vivid the descriptions in the letters of special correspondents or the reports of generals. There is still room for improvement in the execution of these cuts, but occasionally a work appears of real merit in execution, as well as in conception. There has been very little work done in America better studied from nature than some of the illustrations, and for spirit and feeling our exhibitions rarely show anything so good as "Phil Sheridan's Ride to the Front," on page 705, or the "Chase of a Blockade Runner," on page 758 of the last volume. Some of the symbolical pictures by Mr. Nast were among the most effective political tracts of the recent campaign, and merit preservation as embodiments of the popular imagination. A little more care and expense, and the abolition of the caricatures which usually vulgarize its last page, would render the illustrations of *Harper's Weekly* worthy of the place the paper now occupies in public regard. There has been such im-

provement in other respects that there should be improvement also in this, and still more in the character of the advertisements admitted into the journal. Such a paper as this ought not on any terms to consent to lend its columns to promote the interests of swindling and gambling concerns, about whose character there can be no question. The code of newspaper morality on this subject is low. Messrs. Harper and Brothers have the power to do something to raise it.

Our historical societies and public libraries throughout the country should secure a complete set of the volumes of the Weekly,—for every year will add to their value as an illustrated record of the times; and as long as the paper is edited as it now is, and maintains the public cause with such vigor, independence, and effect, it will be one of the most trustworthy and important exponents of the better political opinions of the times.

11. — *Johnson's New Illustrated (Steel Plate) Family Atlas, with Physical Geography, and with Descriptions Geographical, Statistical, and Historical, including the latest Federal Census, a Geographical Index, and a Chronological History of the Civil War in America.* By RICHARD SWAINSON FISHER, M. D. New York: Johnson and Ward. 1865. Atlas folio. 104 Maps.

THIS work is the improved successor of that long favorably known as Colton's Atlas. It is the best existing atlas of North America, and it contains very serviceable maps of the other portions of the world, which, though not as good as those in the best foreign works of the kind, are sufficient for most purposes; and the whole is furnished at a price far below that at which corresponding European works can now be obtained. The maps of the United States are of the highest value. They are clear, accurate, and brought up to the present time. The interest which the existing war gives to localities in the States leads to a demand for correct maps, which is amply and satisfactorily met by those contained in this volume. The need of a good atlas, in which the progress of our arms can be intelligently followed, is felt by every family, and we can cordially recommend this work as well adapted to satisfy this general want. Beside the maps, it contains a vast amount of well-digested statistical, historical, and geographical information. A portion of this information is really useful, but some part of it seems to us superfluous, particularly that relating to history and physical geography. The entire contents of the volume may be of value to some of its purchasers, but we wish that the publishers would issue an edition of the maps